

JOHN BENCIVENGO, JR, 1976, commonly known as "Chef John," is the owner of the U.S.S. Chowder Pot III in Branford, CT as of June 1, 2017. His determination, passion and hard work, which are traits that he possessed throughout his entire life, always came through in his cooking. Customers return not only for the great food but because "Chef John" cares about each individual and their experience. Anyone who knows "Chef John" knows that he is a genuine, light-hearted man who puts others before himself.

John's culinary journey began when he started working at the Grassy Hill Country Club as a dishwasher (1974-1975). From there, he went on to work at Laurel View Country Club as a line cook (1975-1977); though the biggest step forward in his culinary career was at the New Haven Lawn Club where he became the Sous-chef (1977-1979). While he was working there, he made the time to attend the Culinary Institute in Hyde Park, NY (1977-1978). Only one year after the completion of his schooling, he got the job at the U.S.S. Chowder Pot in Clinton and became one of the founding members of the CT Shoreline Culinary Association (1980-2000). When Chowder Pot III opened in Branford in November 1980, Jon Smith (the preceding owner) asked Chef John to be the executive chef at the Branford location at the young age of 22. He worked there until 1985. John took a slight leave from the restaurant when he became the executive chef at the Trust House Forte in Stamford (1985-1987). He just couldn't stay away though, so in 1988, he made his return to "The Pot" where he remained the executive chef until the day he became the owner.

John married his high school sweetheart Margaret Amadeo Bencivengo. They met at Amity High School. John was from Orange, and Margaret was from Bethany, and they moved to Bethany in 1993 where they have been living ever since. Even with all the responsibilities on his plate as an executive chef, he still made the time to be a great father to five children: Catherine, Johnny, Nicole, Peter, and Dolores. His large Italian family is growing with two grandchildren, Amalia and Vincenzo; two sons in-law, Christopher and Brandon; and one daughter in-law, Stacy. His family spends their time raising money for different charities from vendor events to paint night at his restaurant, as well as donating time, cooking for organizations like the Columbus House on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas morning.

The Chowder Pot has become a second home to John and the customers a second family. All of his children work with him and want him to succeed. He loves creating new dishes and sharing them with everyone by putting his dedication and perseverance into his restaurant. For great food cooked with passion and love, come see "Chef John" at the Chowder Pot III in Branford, CT.

STEVEN A. CONN, 1981, an associate athletics director and Yale's Director of Sports Publicity, has worked in college athletics for 34 years, beginning with his undergraduate days at the University of Miami. He currently oversees the publicity of a 35-sport program that includes TV, radio, photography, a digital broadcast channel and the school's official website.

The primary contact for the Yale football, hockey, lacrosse and heavyweight crew teams, Conn also serves as a member of the department's senior staff. His role includes TV and radio commentating, writing, media relations and mentoring students, which he also does as an advisor for Yale students at Morse College.

In addition to the work on campus and traveling with Yale teams, he assists the NCAA with championship events and has helped run Frozen Fours, Final Fours, regionals and lacrosse national championships. With Yale teams, he has been on the support staff for national championships in hockey (2013), lacrosse (2018) and crew (2017, 18).

Conn, a Woodbridge, CT resident whose introduction to college athletics was taking photos as a 14-year-old on the sidelines of Yale football games, enjoyed his initial and brief foray into college football outside the Ivy League as a walk-on player at Miami in 1983.

The 1985 Miami graduate did an internship at the University of South Alabama Athletics Department the following year and then found his way back to Connecticut, where he began to help at Yale while working for the newspaper, *Business Times*.

Conn, who has been a TV and radio commentator for numerous networks since coming to the campus, began his Yale career in 1986 as the assistant sports publicity director and took over that office in 1993, the same year he earned a Master's in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of New Haven.

The 1981 Amity High School graduate and recipient of the John Janenda Scholarship played basketball and baseball for the Spartans. He married classmate, Emily Resnik, in 1993, and they have sons, Jeremy (Union College '20) and Jordan (University of New Hampshire '22), who were Amity student-athletes in the classes of 2015 and 2018, respectively.

TARA LEIGH KNIGHT, 1983, is the founding member and senior partner of the firm of Knight & Cerritelli L.L.C. located in New Haven, Connecticut. Attorney Knight specializes in criminal defense law and is board-certified in criminal trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. The Expanded Governing Board of Yale Law School has appointed her Clinical Tutor in Law at the Yale Law School yearly since 2012.

From 2011 to 2014, she was one of the directors of the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification, which is the governing board overseeing the certification of lawyers as Board Certified throughout the nation in criminal law and other areas of specialty. In 2012, she was inducted into the American Board of Criminal Lawyers.

She is rated “AV” by Martindale Hubbell; its highest rating.

Her extensive criminal litigation background includes trial and appellate experience in both state and federal courts. She has tried numerous cases to verdict including defending individuals charged with: Capital Murder; robbery; assault; sexual assault; narcotics; weapons violations; computer and pornography crimes; embezzlement; marijuana; and domestic violence.

Attorney Knight is admitted to practice before the Connecticut State and Federal Courts, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

She is one the first women ever to be listed in the publication, *The Best Lawyers in America*, as an outstanding criminal law practitioner in Connecticut. She has been listed in *The Best Lawyers In America* yearly since 2003.

In May 2016 Attorney Knight was awarded the honor of being the only female attorney in Connecticut listed as a “Best Lawyer” for Criminal Defense Practice in the Spring 2016 issue of *Best Lawyers Business Edition*.

Attorney Knight has been named a “Connecticut Super Lawyer ” yearly since 2006. She is listed as one of the top 50 women lawyers in New England in the 2017 edition of *New England Magazine*’s annual listing of top attorneys. Additionally, she was designated as one of the Top 25 Women Lawyers in the state 2007, 2011, 2012 and 2016 and one of the Top 50 Lawyers in the state in 2006 by *Connecticut Magazine*. She was listed in *New York Magazine* in its 2006 through 2016 editions as one of the best criminal defense lawyers in the New York area. In 2009, *Irish America* magazine and the *Irish Voice Newspaper* named her to their “Legal 100” list- a listing of the leading figures in the legal profession across North America.

Attorney Knight taught Criminal Procedure at the University of Connecticut Law School during the Fall Semester 2010. Additionally, she was an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at Quinnipiac University from 1999-2001 and has been a guest lecturer for classes at Yale University Law School, Quinnipiac School of Law, and the University of New Haven and has participated as a panelist and/or lecturer at numerous seminars and conferences sponsored by

various bar associations, law schools, television and radio programs, colleges and other organizations.

She is a past-president of the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (2005-2006). Tara is a legal analyst for Channel 8 WTNH news in New Haven Connecticut where she is featured weekly on their "Ask the Lawyer" program.

She was appointed by the Judges of the Superior Court in Connecticut to serve as a member of the grievance/ethics panel for the Ansonia/Milford Judicial District (2006-2009, 2009-2012).

In 2007, the Mayor of New Haven, John DeStefano, Jr., selected her to be a member of an independent review board which was formed to examine the policies, procedures and structures of the New Haven Police Department in the wake of a well-publicized corruption scandal.

She has been a guest commentator on *The Today Show*, Court TV, now TruTV, since 1997 and has been invited to comment as an expert on criminal law on MSNBC, HLN, CNN and Fox News. Additionally, she has been featured in two A & E Network Productions and on Court TV's "The System." She and Attorney Hugh F. Keefe are frequent guests on New Haven's popular morning radio program, "Chaz and AJ in the Morning" (99.1 WPLR).

Her publications include "How Many Fingers Do You See?" (*Connecticut Law Tribune*, November 2002) and "Criminal Justice Model A Costly Mistake," (*Connecticut Law Tribune*, January 2012) and "Reigning in the Mavericks," (*Connecticut Law Tribune*, January 2013).

Attorney Knight is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association and New Haven County Bar Association. In 2001, she was inducted into the Connecticut Bar Foundation. She is an active member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. She has been an executive committee member of the Criminal Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association since 1995. She is a member of the NORML (National Organization for the Reformation of Marijuana Laws) legal committee and FAMM (Families Against Mandatory Minimums).

Attorney Knight is a graduate of Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut and Suffolk University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts. She also completed the National Criminal Defense College in Macon, Georgia.

Ms. Knight resides in New Haven with her husband, Hugh Keefe, who is the senior and managing partner of Lynch, Traub, Keefe and Errante PC in New Haven, Connecticut.

RICHARD KREVOLIN, 1982, is an award-winning screenwriter, author, playwright, and professor. A graduate of Yale University, Richard went on to earn a Master's degree in screenwriting at UCLA's School of Cinema-Television, and a Master's degree in playwriting and fiction from USC.

For 15 years, from 1989 to 2003, Professor Krevolin taught both undergraduate and graduate screenwriting classes at what many consider the number one film school in the world, USC Cinema/TV School. He planned and led courses on basic and advanced fundamentals of visual storytelling, story structure, and screenwriting. Richard also taught English Composition and Writing Across the Genres (Playwriting, Fiction and Poetry).

Over 20,000 screenwriters have been taught by Richard in Los Angeles, CA and around the world. Under his guidance, his students have gone on to sell film scripts and TV shows to Universal, Fox, Paramount, Dreamworks SKG and numerous other big studios and production companies.

Richard has also taught at UCLA Film School, Pepperdine University, the University of Redlands, and Ithaca College. These days, Richard conducts private writer's workshops and storytelling seminars throughout the world: England, France, Spain, Brazil, India, etc. In addition, he has conducted workshops and seminars at the Maui Writer's Conference, Selling To Hollywood, The Heart of Film Festival, The Chicago Film Festival, The Indianapolis Writers' Center, The Las Vegas Screenwriter's Conference, The Surrey Writer's Conference, and The Reno Film Festival. Finally, he is a star speaker who has taught seminars at the world famous Screenwriting Expo. Three of these seminars were so popular that they videotaped them and they are now best-selling DVD's.

He is the author of *Screenwriting From The Soul* (St. Martins Press), *Pilot Your Life* (Prentice-Hall), *How To Adapt Anything Into A Screenplay* (Wiley & Sons), *Screenwriting in the Land of Oz*, and *The Hook: How to Share Your Brand's Unique Story to Engage Customers, Boost Sales, and Achieve Heartfelt Success*, all of which are still in print and are used at film schools and universities across America.

As a screenwriter and a playwright, Richard was a finalist in the Nicholl Fellowship Screenwriting Award and Chesterfield Screenwriting Award. He also was a finalist for the \$500,000 Kingman Screenwriting Award and the Klasky-Csupo Writing for Children Contest. He won the USC One-Act Play Festival for his comedy, *Love is Like Velcro*. His play, *Trotsky's Garden*, was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights' Conference. His one-man show, *Boychik*, a finalist in the HBO New Writer's Project, was a huge hit at the Santa Monica Playhouse, running for five sold-out months and other awards.

He wrote, directed, and produced the PBS documentary, *Making Light in Terezin*. He was also one of the writers of the documentary, *Fiddler on the Roof: 30 Years of Tradition*. It opened Off-Broadway at Theater Four in New York City in 1997 and is still touring the country. He also received a Valley Theatre League nomination for best director and best play for his one-man musical, *RebbeSoul-O*.

His play, *King Levine* opened in February 1999 at the Odyssey Theater under the direction of Joseph Bologna and after receiving rave reviews, transferred to The Tiffany. It was also nominated for an Ovation Award as Best Adaptation. In 2001, Richard had two one person plays open in Los Angeles *The Lemony Fresh Scent of Diva Monsoon* (starring Ruth DeSosa) at the Rose Alley and *Seltzer Man* (starring David Proval of The Sopranos) at the Tiffany. His plays have been performed with Ed Asner, Allen Arbus, Jean Smart, Mackenzie Phillips, and Richard Kline. In 2009, his play, *Lansky* opened off-Broadway at the St. Luke's Theater and was nominated for an Outer Critics Award. His play, *The Gospel According to Jerry*, premiered at the Minnesota Jewish Theater in April 2011 and was then produced at the New Theater in Miami.

Richard has several screenplays under option and in development including: *Safer* (Screenplay) under option to Tom DeSanto Prods. (*X-men*, *Apt Pupil*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Transformers*, etc.) and *Jaka* (Film Script) under option to Falcon Ent. He just co-wrote and directed a feature length comedy, *ATTACHMENTS*, starring Academy Award nominated actress, Katharine Ross.

His consulting work has affected hundreds of TV commercials produced all over the world, many of which have won awards including Golden Lions at Cannes and The People Choice Award in China. In addition, he conducts writer's workshops and corporate storytelling seminars throughout the world.

He also is the Head Narrative Consultant for the Asia based consulting/consumer research firm, IDStats.org.

JESSE L. SENDROFF, 2000, graduated *magna cum laude* from Quinnipiac University in 2006. He went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from Western New England University School of Law in 2009 and was later admitted to the Connecticut Bar. During law school, Jesse served as a Student Law Clerk at the United States District Court in Hartford, CT.

After law school, Jesse worked as a Congressional Liaison at the United States Department of Energy, where he managed outreach to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development.

From 2011 to 2013, Jesse worked in multiple roles supporting the re-election and inauguration of President Barack Obama. These roles included working as Director of Compliance for the 2012 Democratic National Convention Committee, Voter Protection Attorney during the final months of the campaign, and Director of Compliance for the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Committee.

Jesse was later appointed to serve in the Obama White House as a Senior Advance Lead where he worked as an Aide to the President. In this position, he traveled to countless domestic and international locations to manage the operational planning and execution of Presidential visits. During these trips, Jesse would regularly brief the President.

On several occasions Jesse was selected to serve as the head of the United States traveling delegation abroad. In this role, he liaised with foreign governments and stakeholders as the Chief White House Negotiator in order to execute the logistical objectives of the Executive Office of the President and the National Security Council.

After leaving the White House, Jesse moved to New York City and was appointed to serve as Director of Advance and Special Assistant to Mayor Bill de Blasio. He was additionally named the interim Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Projects and Community Events. He currently oversees all of the Mayor's public-facing events at Gracie Mansion and throughout New York City.